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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 26, 1986

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MEMORANDUM

TO: EAP - Mr. Monjo
FROM: EAP/P - Alexander Almasov *(Signature)*
SUBJECT: Noon Press Briefing
Spokesman: Charles Redman

CHINA

UPI's Anderson asked if Redman had any recent figures on "Persian Gulf" arms sales and, in particular, whether China is becoming a major arms supplier in the war there. Redman responded: "I don't have any figures on arms sales. By way of a general comment, I would simply note that the Chinese have a publicly stated policy of remaining neutral in the conflict and supporting early cessation of the war. We think that's a policy they ought to adhere to."

Anderson asked if Chinese sales to both sides would be inconsistent with that policy of neutrality. Redman responded: "You know what our policy is concerning the war. We have our own policy with regard to both belligerents. We have systematically urged third countries not to sell arms to Iran as the only effective way to bring Iran quickly to accept mediation or negotiation. And, in that context, we believe all countries should work for the earliest end to the conflict with the sovereignty and territory of both sides intact."

Another reporter asked if US has contacted the Chinese about that. Redman said: "The Chinese are well aware of our views. As I just said, we've systematically urged third countries..."

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